Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/25 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404630027-7

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning America STATION WJLA-TV ABC Network

DATE May 31, 1985 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Walker Spy Ring

STEVE BELL: Three members of a single Navy family stand accused of spying for the Soviet Union. The case of John Walker, his case Michael, and his brother Arthur is the latest in a series of highly publicized espionage cases that have raised many questions about our current system of granting security clearances.

STAT

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia is the ranking Democrat on both the Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Last month he directed four days of hearings into the security clearance system. Senator Nunn is in Washington this morning. And he's joining us from St. Louis, is Admiral Bobby Inman, former Director of Naval Intelligence, also former Deputy Director of the CIA.

First of all, Admiral Inman, we've heard the stories, we've seen the reports that the Navy says this could be a disaster, one of the worst spy cases ever. Just how much damage are we talking about here?

STAT

ADMIRAL BOBBY INMAN: Steve, every spy case hurts. In this case, the major question yet in front of us is, how long did the spying go on?. There's a good reason at this point to worry that most of our ASW tactics, our ability to use our submarines to find Soviet submarines has been compromised over a substantial period of years.

BELL: Now, we're talking about, obviously, a huge ocean, but where our submarines are out there. And as I understand it, we have underwater audio devices that we actually can hear the enemy's submarines, and this sort of thing. Are you talking about this kind of information being compromised?

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/25 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404630027-7

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/25 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404630027-7

ADMIRAL INMAN: The ability to locate Soviet submarines with precision was developed during the 1960s by a variety of sources. When they sent their SSBNs out into the Central Atlantic, we'd become very good in the '60s about knowing precisely where they were, how they operated. And for indications and warning against possible hostile attack, that was very valuable.

BELL: All right.

INMAN: There were a variety of ways that that detection was done.

We saw them then come out with a whole new generation of submarines with much longer-range missiles that they pulled back to operate close to coastal waters and where they could use their own surface ships and submarines to provide protective corridors for them all the time. A more survivable system, from their point of view, but also one in which it was much less -- much less knowledge was available to us about their patterns and the kind of threat they might provide.

It's only speculation at this point that knowledge provided through this kind of spy ring prompted that change. But we can't discount that even that kind of long-term strategic change came about from the success.

BELL: But obviously, if they know just how well we can track them and where the gaps are in our capability, we're talking about something very serious.

ADMIRAL INMAN: And they learn how to avoid the ability to detect.

BELL: Senator Nunn, you had a hearing just last month on security clearances. Just exactly what did you find out? How big a problem do we have here?

ADMIRAL INMAN: Well, the problem is getting much worse because the number of people that we have cleared for access to classified information has gone up at an astounding rate in the last five years. Believe it or not, we have 4.2 million people that are cleared for classified information in this country. Fifty percent, some 53 percent of all government employees are cleared for classified information.

Now, this poses a problem that the personnel security people simply can't cope with, no matter how good they are, because the numbers are overwhelming the whole system. We've got to cut back dramatically on the number of people who have access, and that will give us a chance to have better personnel security clearance procedures.

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/25 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404630027-7

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/25 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404630027-7

BELL: Now, one of your witnesses was former spy Christopher Boyce, who called the security clearance system a joke. Is it that bad?

SENATOR NUNN: Well, in his case, if you take what he said in the hearings as being accurate -- and there was no rebuttal of that -- then in the case of the contractor he worked for, it was a very inadequate kind of clearance procedure and very inadequate personnel and physical security access.

So, all of that was very disturbing. I'm afraid that was not an isolated case. I think we've taken too much for granted in this country, and we've got to tighten down. But we've got to cut down the access. And as a matter of fact, we've got to cut down the amount of classified information.

Justice Stewart once said that if everything is classified, nothing is classified. And I think that's what we ae facing today.

BELL: Admiral, am I mistaken when I have the impression that motivation for spying is changing in a rather disturbing way?

ADMIRAL INMAN: Back in the '30s and the '40s, most of the spy cases we encountered, those who entered spying did it for ideological reasons. I'm not aware of a single case in the last 15 years where ideology had anything to do with it. Selling secrets for cash. Very little difference between industrial espionage and foreign espionage.

It's a basic question of ethics for the society.

BELL: You're an old Navy man. How do you feel about this? We're talking about career Navy officers accused.

ADMIRAL INMAN: Very distressed, because again it was the constant focus on integrity, ethics that you heard at the outset that was your prime defense against this sort of thing, and consciousness about other people who might be involved in it

BELL: Senator Nunn, very briefly, what recommendation is most important?

SENATOR NUNN: Well, I would recommend the President of the United States issue an executive order and say to all the agencies and the contractors, "Cut by 50 percent the number of people who have access to classified information, and do it in two yers." If we did that we might begin to be able to handle the system.

BELL: Senator Nunn, Admiral Inman, thank you very much for joining us this morning.

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/08/25 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404630027-7